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For Immediate Release
March 4, 2004

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Sen. Gilbert begins fixing problems with “Bad Driver Law”

Lansing – Sen. Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac, today announced he is introducing legislation tomorrow to amend the Driver’s Responsibility Act. He also is sending a letter to the state treasurer asking him to defer for 30 days the sending of notices to drivers ticketed for not providing proof of insurance when pulled over.

“In light of concerns voiced by Michigan drivers over Public Act 165, which went into effect Oct. 1, 2003, I am writing to address this issue and offer an immediate solution to the concerns,” Gilbert said in the letter. “As the principal author of the original legislation I want to make it crystal clear that this was not the intent of the law. The original bill was directed at bad drivers, not Michigan citizens who may have merely forgotten to carry a piece of paper.”

The law states that motorists pulled over who fail to show proof of insurance are assessed a \$300 fee. Under the bad driver fee structure, drivers who have insurance but simply do not have the paperwork in their car receive the same treatment as drivers who do not carry automobile insurance at all.

“We are working to amend the original legislation so people who forget to put their insurance papers in their car are not treated the same as the scofflaws who refuse to buy insurance,” Gilbert said. “Although we understand the Michigan Vehicle Code requires all drivers to carry proof of insurance at all times while driving, and failure to do so is a civil infraction, the intent of this legislation was not to excessively penalize these drivers.”

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